

**Agreement between the Government of the United States of America
and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
regarding the surrender of persons to International Tribunals**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, hereinafter "the Parties,"

Reaffirming the importance of bringing to justice those who commit genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes,

Considering that the Parties have each expressed their intention, where appropriate, to investigate and prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide alleged to have been committed by their respective officials, employees, military personnel, and nationals,

Hereby agree as follows:

1. For purposes of this agreement, "persons" are current or former Government officials, employees (including contractors), or military personnel or nationals of one Party.
2. Persons of one Party present in the territory of the other shall not, absent the express consent of the first Party,
 - (a) be surrendered or transferred by any means to any international tribunal for any purpose, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic are parties, or
 - (b) be surrendered or transferred by any means to any other entity or third country, or expelled to a third country, for the purpose of surrender to or transfer to any international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic are parties.
3. When the Government of the United States of America extradites, surrenders, or otherwise transfers a person of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to a third country, the Government of the United States of America will not agree to the surrender or transfer of that person by the third country to any international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic are parties, absent the express consent of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

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4. When the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic extradites, surrenders, or otherwise transfers a person of the United States of America to a third country, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic will not agree to the surrender or transfer of that person by the third country to any international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic are parties, absent the express consent of the Government of the United States of America.

5. Each Party agrees not to knowingly facilitate, consent to, or cooperate with efforts by any third party or country to effect the extradition, surrender, or transfer of a person of the other Party to any international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic are parties.

6. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by both Parties. It will remain in force until one year after the date on which one Party notifies the other of its intent to terminate this Agreement. The provisions of this Agreement shall continue to apply with respect to any act occurring, or any allegation arising, before the effective date of termination.

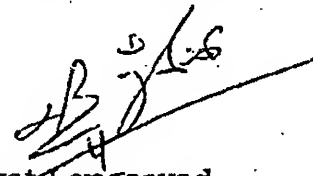
Done at Vientiane, in duplicate, this twenty-fourth day of December, 2003, in the English and Lao languages. In case of differences in interpretation, the English language text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:



Douglas A. Hartwick
Ambassador of the United States
of America to the Lao People's
Democratic Republic

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC:



Somsavat Lengsavad
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs

